

Week Ending Friday, January 28, 2005

**Message on the Observance of
Eid al-Adha**

January 21, 2005

I send greetings to Muslims around the world as you celebrate Eid al-Adha.

Abraham's sacrifice and service to God teach us the importance of devotion, and God's mercy encourages us to share His blessings with others. The kindness and charity practiced by Muslims during this holiday strengthen friendships, help those in need, and exemplify the compassionate spirit that makes America and the world a better place.

As Americans of Muslim faith celebrate Eid al-Adha, our Nation is reminded of the contributions that Muslim Americans have made to our religious and cultural heritage. Your values of family, service, and community enrich our society and reflect the ideals on which our country was founded.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

January 22, 2005

Good morning. My fellow Americans, earlier this week I had the honor of taking, for the second time, the oath of office as your President. The Inaugural ceremony is simple, yet its meaning is profound. Every 4 years, the American people hold an Inauguration to reaffirm our faith in liberty and to celebrate the democratic institutions that preserve it. To place one's hand on the Bible and swear the oath is a humbling experience and a reminder of the high trust and great responsibility that the Presidency brings. With deep appreciation for your support and

mindful of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, I'm eager to begin the work of a new term.

In the years since I first swore to preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution, our Nation has been tested. Our enemies have found America more than equal to the task. In response to attacks on our home soil, we have captured or killed terrorists across the Earth. We have taken unprecedented steps to secure our homeland from future attacks, and our troops have liberated millions from oppression.

At home, thanks to progrowth policies and the hard work of the American people, we overcame a recession and created over 2 million new jobs in the past year alone. Now we move forward. We remain in a war the United States will continue to lead, fighting terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. We will strive to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of terrorists and tyrants. And our Nation will stand by the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq as they build free and democratic societies in their own lands because when America gives its word, America must keep its word.

As I stated in my Inaugural Address, our security at home increasingly depends on the success of liberty abroad. So we will continue to promote freedom, hope, and democracy in the broader Middle East and, by doing so, defeat the despair, hopelessness, and resentments that feed terror.

At home too we will expand freedom. We will continue to bring high standards and accountability to our public schools so that every child can learn. We will transform our retirement and health systems, reform the legal system, and simplify the Tax Code so that all Americans enjoy the dignity and independence that comes from ownership. In this ownership society, every citizen will have a real stake in the promise of America, and our most valued institutions will be better